

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : On this issue we have already given a notice that we would make a detailed statement. The hon. Members may appreciate that the Prime Minister has to go to the other House. The detailed statement is ready and we can read out the statement and on the basis of that you can make submissions.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : There is nothing new.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We can come back to the discussion on the Private Members' Bills. Shri Dwaraka Nath Das to speak.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : It is a very serious matter, Sir. Foreigners are coming and meeting our officials.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government is making a statement. Afterwards if there is anything, let us see.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : We should be given a copy of the statement.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If you permit me I can make the statement now; or else after the Private Members' Business is over.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is ready with the statement.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : It is a very important matter because foreigners are coming and meeting our political leaders inside our country. It is a breach of trust. If I go to America and meet one of the leaders of their political party, will they allow me to do so?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I am not able to listen to anyone. If so many people speak, I will not be able to follow anyone.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : It is the right of every Member in this august House to participate in the discussions on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. Already a Bill has been introduced and the discussion on that is underway. That should be resumed. So, please take up the discussion on Private Member's Business.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why I have already called out the name of Shri Dwaraka Nath Das. Let him speak, please. The statement will be made after the Private Member's Business is over.

17.40 hrs.

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I should give

credit to Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy for introducing such a good Bill.

'Compulsory education' is a term hardly relevant - or, should I say applicable? - to India. Of course, the Bill is for compulsory up to the higher secondary level. This Bill, so far as my idea goes, is at a very advanced stage. We should look back at the level of primary education in the country. At the primary level, a large number of children are being admitted in the schools and after two or three years, they leave the school for ever. That is the position. A country with a population of 94 crores should have adequate educational facilities. But the Government's efforts seem to be not much till today.

Of course, it is not relevant but still I have to say that adult education or what is called, 'total literacy programme' is simply an eye wash. It does educate none but it is simply a waste of money. I have seen in my district that this 'total literacy programme' is a failure and wastage of money on the part of the Government.

For the same course of study, there are several kinds of schools. For example, there are the Central Schools, common public schools, missionary schools, Government sponsored Navodaya Vidyalayas and so on and so forth. There is also a gradation of such schools. The upper class and the upper-middle class people are bent upon getting wards admitted in the high grade schools. I do not understand why these upper class and upper-middle class people are bent upon getting their wards admitted in these high grade schools. It seems as if the Government wants to create several classes of people - high, low and middle - through the so-called educational system amongst its citizens.

Compulsory education, particularly in this class-ridden society of India, is a fantasy. Till today, forty per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. Without enhancing or raising the standard of living of the peasantry and the unorganised labour class, how can you expect to have compulsory education in the country? It is impossible. So, first of all, we should look into and raise the standard of living of the peasantry and the labour class including unorganised labour.

Only then can we talk about compulsory education. Now, so far as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are concerned, I think, till today they are the oppressed people. I think the literacy rate among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe men is about fifteen per cent and as regards women are concerned, it is below ten per cent. So, how can you think of giving compulsory and free education to children? It is impossible.

So, my suggestion is that we should raise the standard of life of SC/ST people. There should be some

economic package. Unless and until it is done, it is only a fantasy to think about giving compulsory and free education to children.

My next suggestion is that the Government should try to eliminate the differences among several kinds of schools in the same course because it will create differences in the society. The Government must try to exhaust all its efforts to improve the rural schools and rural public schools. They should not encourage setting up of Navodhaya Vidhyalaya or Central Schools because it will create differences in the society. In the ensuing Ninth Five Year Plan, the Government should exhaust all its efforts to improve rural schools. I think it is being done.

The Bill envisages education as the higher level. But my suggestion is the first children should be encouraged to get proper education at the primary level and then they can think of higher studies.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ventilate my ideas.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill which is moved by Dr. Subbarama Raddy, my learned colleague.

- This Bill is for providing compulsory education for all in our country.

Sir, we are on the threshold of the twenty-first century. When we are marching towards the twenty-first century, the demand for education is increasing manifold. In the past the goal of education was very limited. It was for imparting knowledge, skills and values. But at the present stage of development of mankind, education goes beyond these limited aims. It has to be geared to meet the imperatives of the growth, elimination of economic imbalance and other allied aspects, such as technological upgradation, demands for globalisation and international competitiveness.

17.50 hrs.

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Minimum support Prices for Kharif Crops and Raw Jute For 1996-97 Season-Laid

[Translation]

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding minimum support price policy for kharif crops and raw Jute for 1996-97 season.

The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price of Paddy (Common) of Fair Average Quality at Rs.380 per quintal for the 1996-97 season. This marks

an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price of Rs.360 fixed for 1995-96 season. The prices for Fine and Superfine varieties of paddy have been fixed as Rs.395 and Rs.415 per quintal respectively. This also marks an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price of previous season for both the varieties.

The Minimum Support Price of Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra and Ragi) of Fair Average quality has been fixed at Rs.310 per quintal which marks an increase of Rs.10 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season. For Maize also the increase is Rs.10 and the Minimum Support Price fixed is Rs.320 per quintal.

The Minimum Support Price of Kharif Pulses viz. Arhar (Tur), Moong and Urad of Fair Average Quality has been raised by Rs.40 per quintal over the previous year's price and fixed at Rs.840 per quintal for 1996-97 season.

The Minimum Support Price of Groundnut-in-shell of Fair Average Quality has been fixed at Rs.920 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for last crop.

The Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow has been fixed at Rs.700 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 over the price fixed for 1995-96 season. Similarly the Minimum Support Price for Soyabean Black has been fixed at Rs.620 per quintal showing an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for the last season.

At Rs.960 per quintal the minimum support price of Sunflower Seed shows an increase of Rs.10 per quintal over the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of Sesamum has been fixed at Rs.870 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the previous season. Similarly at Rs.720 per quintal the Minimum Support Price of Nigerseed shows an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of F-414/H-777 Cotton has been fixed at Rs.1180 which marks an increase of Rs.30 per quintal over the previous year. Similarly at Rs.1380 per quintal the Minimum Support Price of H-4 Cotton also shows an increase of Rs.30 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

The Government has also decided to fix the Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute for 1996-97 season at Rs.510 per quintal for TD-5 grade of Raw Jute in Assam as against Rs.490 per quintal fixed for the 1995-96 season. The corresponding prices for other grades of raw jute will be fixed in the light of normal market price differentials.

It is expected that these Minimum Support Prices will enthruse the farmers to invest more and achieve further increases in production and productivity of these crops.